

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

LCH  
[REDACTED]

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is LCH [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1963. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

**Background**

2. I lived with my mother in Duntocher before I went into care. My father left when I was very young. The only contact I had with him was on one occasion when I was about fifteen years old.
3. I had four older brothers, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], three of whom died in childhood. I believe [REDACTED] died of pneumonia and [REDACTED] drowned when he was out playing and fell into a burn. [REDACTED], who was a year older than me, had leukaemia and he died in the same week my mother gave birth to a baby girl, [REDACTED], who also passed away shortly after birth. They all passed away before I went into care. I only vaguely remember them. I think it's a deliberate ploy to forget as it hurts.
4. There was a time when I was in about five different homes over a four-year period. I am confused about what age I was in the different places. I can only remember bits and pieces. I'm honestly trying to recall everything but it was a long time ago. I know I was in Nazareth House for short periods of time. I think I was in two places which were run by nuns, one of which was in Kilmarnock.

5. My younger brother, [REDACTED], and I were always together right through our time in care. He is two years younger than me. My other brother [REDACTED] is five years older than me. He wasn't really brought up with me and [REDACTED] as he stayed with my mum.
6. I don't remember how old I was when I first went into a home. My cousin, [REDACTED], is a year older than me and she is a bit clearer about dates than me. She lived in the flat above us in Duntocher and went to St Mary's primary school with me. We were a close family. She remembers coming to visit us in the first home. She thinks I was in primary three at St Mary's when I first went away.

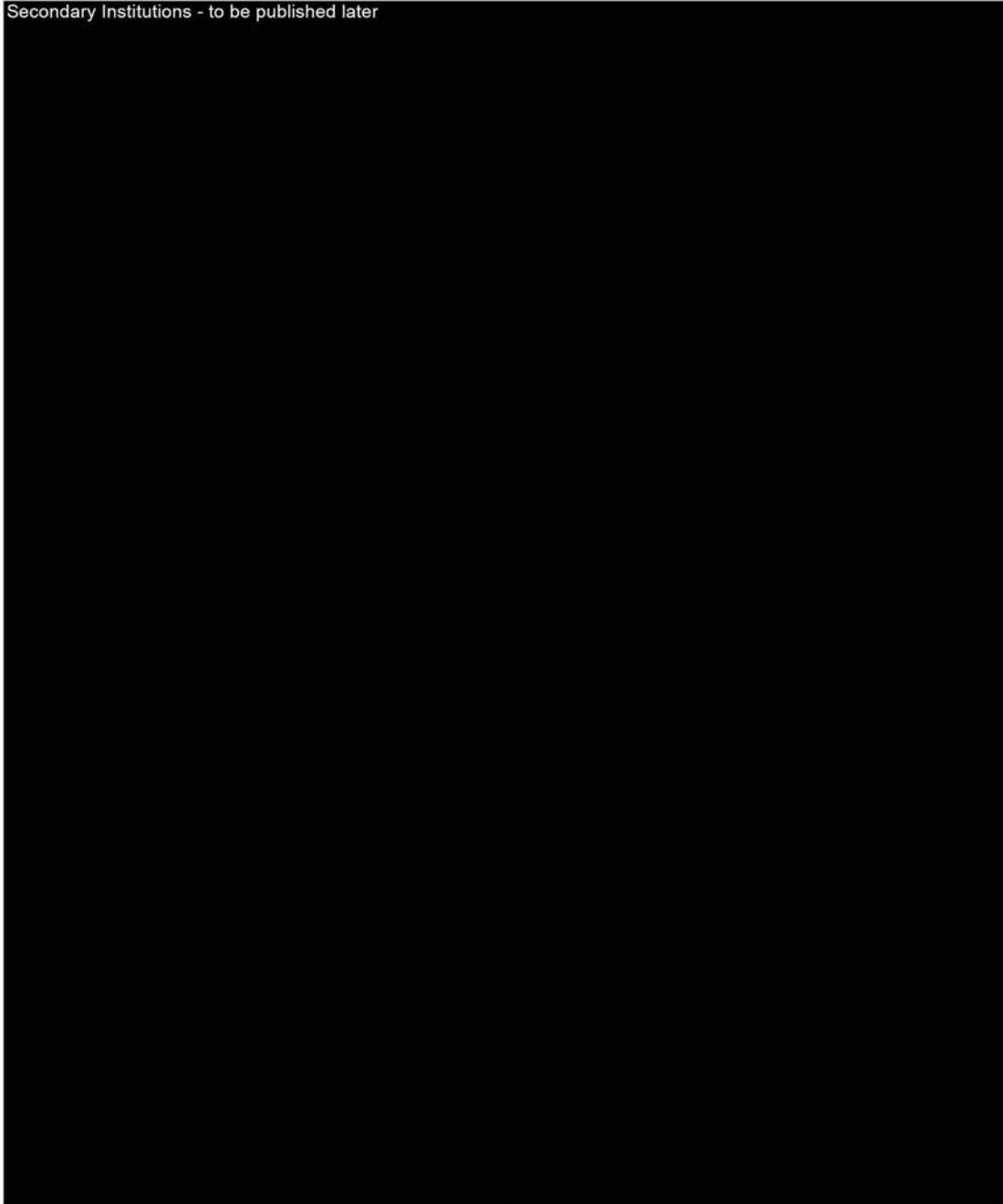
### **Nazareth House, Kilmarnock**

7. I know that I was definitely in Nazareth House. That is locked in my mind. I don't know what age I was. I was there each time for maybe a month or a couple of months and then returned to my mother. My memory is that my mum kept trying to have us back to look after us at home but she wasn't able to. I'm not sure how long we spent back in her care. I lived in the home seven days a week when I was there and my mum used to come and visit us.
8. [REDACTED] and I were in a dormitory together with about twenty to thirty other children.
9. The home was run by nuns who were really cruel. They battered us and whipped us with canes for things like not sitting correctly, not sitting in the right place, and not doing as we were told. They hit us constantly. I was hit and saw other children being hit. I don't remember the names of any of the nuns. They were all the same. They were all twisted.
10. I don't actually remember telling my mother what the nuns did, but I think I would have as I would've had marks and bruises on me.

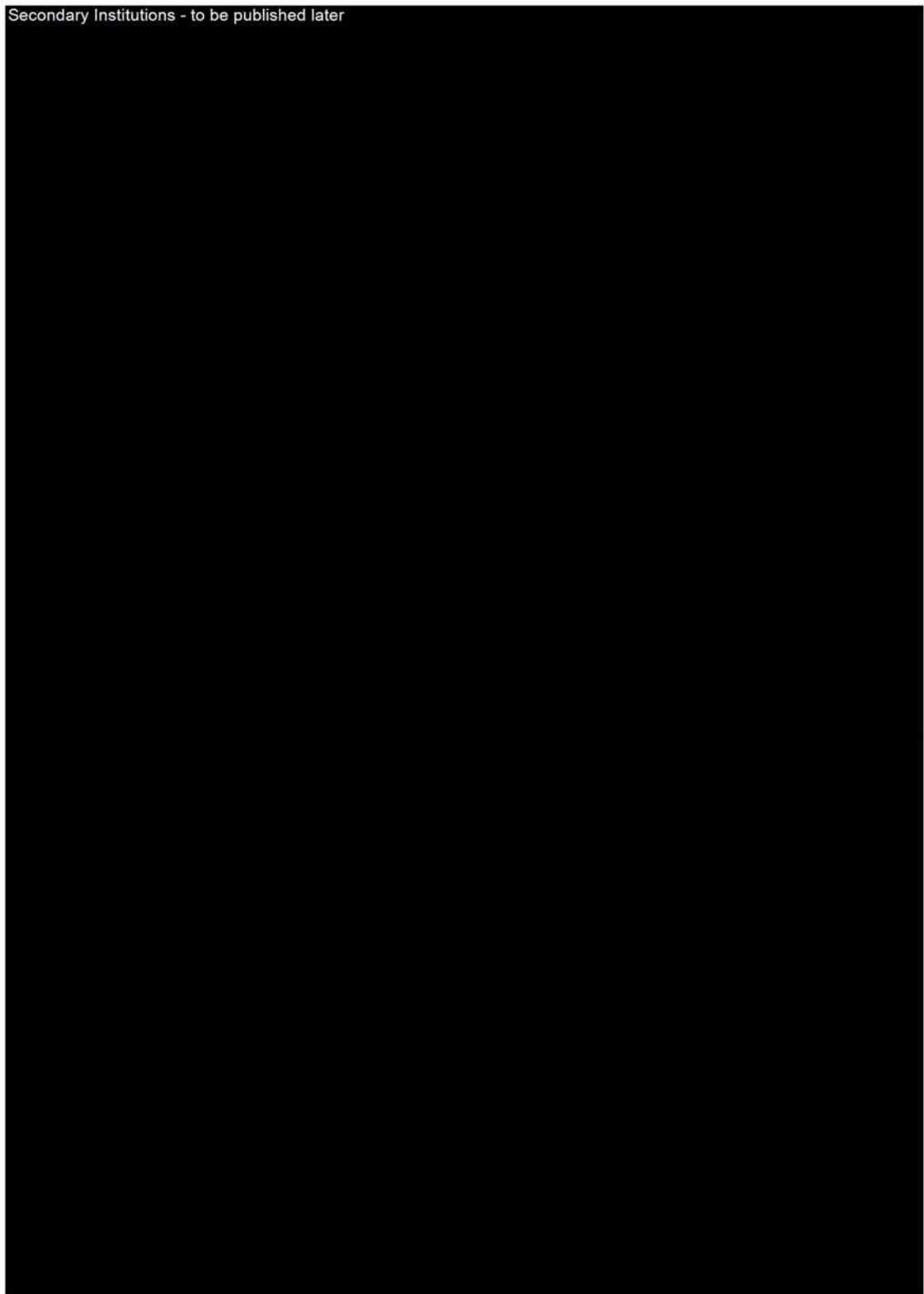
11. I never received any medical attention for the beatings. I did get medical treatment once when I broke my arm falling off a witch's hat in the playground. I think it happened in Nazareth House's own playground.

**Mugdock Bank Children's Home, Blanefield**

Secondary Institutions - to be published later



Secondary Institutions - to be published later



Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later and me being put into Cardross Assessment Centre. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

25. I think I was in Mugdock for about two years.

### **Cardross Assessment Centre, Dunbartonshire**

26. Cardross was a secure building. We were under lock and key and there were big bars on the windows.

27. [redacted] and I had gone into homes for care and protection reasons. Secondary Institutions - to be published later. The other boys were bad boys and were there because they had committed crimes. I had never committed a crime in my life.

28. There were about twenty-five boys in the dormitory. [redacted] and I were in the same one.

29. I don't remember the name of the man who was in charge. He was big and baldy.

30. I think I was in Cardross for two years. It was two years of hell. It was a frightening, disgusting, horrific place. What an awakening it was. Secondary Institutions - to be published later. I went Secondary Institutions - to be published later to total violence overnight.

*Routine*

31. There was no schooling in Cardross. We were forced to sit in front of a TV for ten hours a day. There were no activities arranged for us.
32. At one point I went to Hermitage Academy Secondary School in Helensburgh but I couldn't do the work so I wasn't there for very long. I had been locked up so long with no stimulation. I think I was about eleven when I went to Cardross.
33. We were sometimes taken for a walk in single file round the grounds, or down to the golf course.
34. After being there for a certain amount of time, you got privileges such as being allowed out to the shops on a Saturday to buy sweets for people.
35. A lot of boys ran away. They used to crash through the windows and run off. At one point when I was what you would call a 'privileged boy', they used to get me to run after them and bring them back. I was made to do it because I was faster. I remember a guy firing a big piece of furniture through the window and running off. He was like Superman. I never saw him again.
36. I ran away once with [REDACTED] and another boy. We broke into a boat behind someone's house and the police came and took us back. We were all caned across the butt when we got back.
37. We were forced to do labour at times. It was something to do. I was made to sand down and paint two ploughs on the premises. The guy who made me do it later abused me. The building is still there but the site has been developed. A picture of the place with the two ploughs in front of it was on the internet. I objected to it and the NSPCC got the picture taken off the website.

*Physical abuse*

38. I got caned on one occasion for stealing fifty pence from my mother's purse. It wasn't just one staff member who hit us. They all had a go at us, and they weren't kidding either. We were brutalised. It was shocking.
39. You had to learn to stick up for yourself or you'd get bullied. That's something I learned early in life and it's stuck with me throughout my life.
40. The place was full of boys who had problems. They baited you. If you had an argument or falling out with another boy, the staff would put out four benches to create an area for us to have bare-knuckle fights with each other. That's how you dealt with your problems. The staff forced us to fight and watched us. I went in there a quiet wee boy and before I knew it I was fighting every day.

*Sexual abuse*

41. The guy who made me paint the ploughs was one of the carers. I don't remember his name. I think he was already working there when I first arrived. He lived off-site but sometimes stayed overnight, like a kind of night watchman. I don't think he stayed up all night. I think he had a bed there. The kids used to run about the dormitory at night and then jump into bed when they heard someone coming. He would come into the dormitory, lift the covers, feel people's feet and say "You're feet are cold. You've been running about". He used that as an excuse to touch their feet. That's how it started. I could see that happening round about me. It was frightening watching it happening. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
- Secondary Ins I was really worried about his behaviour. I kept thinking "Who's next?". Sometimes he would take a boy out of the room and you'd think "He's getting into trouble".
42. He used to take boys back to his house at weekends. I don't think they were forced to go. The alternative was to sit in a room and watch the telly for ten hours.

██████ and I never went. I made that decision for both of us. I knew there was something wrong. You get to a certain age and you have more experience of certain aspects of life than other boys. I didn't know the word 'paedophile' then, but he had a look about him. I don't know what happened to the boys at his house.

43. One night in the dormitory, I woke up and he was touching me on the groin. He put one of his fingers in between my bum cheeks and touched my penis. I think he got a fright when I woke up. He said "You've been running about. You've wet the bed. Get up". That was his excuse. I was protesting and shouting that I wasn't a bed-wetter and he got me up, stripped me, and put me in a bath with cold water and ice.
44. The next day I reported what he had done to me to the man who was in charge at the time. I remember a couple of staff saying to me "You better be telling the truth". The police came up and questioned me.
45. I was totally ostracised by everybody in the whole place after it. Nobody was allowed to speak to me, including the staff. I remember it clearly. I was put into a separate room for five days, away from all the other children. They shaved my hair and gave me a myna bird to look after. I stayed in the room all day and slept there.
46. They found the man hanging in his house the day after I reported it. There were no other discussions about it after that. The guy took his own life because I reported him for being abusive. Where's the closure in that for me? I've had to live with that my whole life. I spoke to the NSPCC about it a couple of years ago and they asked me for a description of him. That was easy. He looked like Father Christmas. He had a white beard, white hair and was a big fat man.
47. I've sometimes thought "Was it just me?". All those boys went back to his house and nobody said to me at the time that what I did was right, and that I stopped him from doing it to other people. Only one person has ever said that to me in my



life. His name is Bill. He was a sort of mentor I had from an organisation called Carr Gomm. I think it must have been happening big-style to other children given he approached me. That's the way I look at it. All my life I've had to think of it that way: that I did stop it being done to other boys. Although, even if I do think that I saved people, a man still took his own life and that's a very hard thing to live with, especially when you're a child and you've been alienated and ostracised.

48. After the five days passed, [REDACTED] and I got moved to St Ninian's School.

### **St Ninian's School, Falkland**

49. St Ninian's was run by the John Ogilvie Brothers. I loved it there. What a time we had. It was excellent. I think I was there for about three years. I think I was fortunate to have ended up at St Ninian's. I really mean that. I think St Ninian's was a very helpful time for me in my life. The rest of it was just survival.

50. We got beaten up, but that was nothing. We were used to getting beat up in the last place we were in. I was battered by the guys who were recently prosecuted and sent to jail. One's called Kelly. I can't remember the other one's name. I was asked by the NSPCC to get involved in the police investigation but I chose not to. They only battered me, and that's nothing to me.

51. I was beaten sometimes for not doing as I was told and also for no reason at all. It happened in the care setting, not school. Eventually [REDACTED] and I teamed up and retaliated and nobody came near us. We were like that up until we were in our mid-twenties.

52. There was schooling on site. It was practically the same as boarding school. We were educated mainly by the brothers. There were some lay teachers who came in. I enjoyed the schooling side. I also enjoyed playing sports, especially rugby. [REDACTED] did well. He's now got a PhD.

53. My mum took us out of St Ninian's when I was about fourteen or fifteen. I didn't get to sit my exams. She should have left me there until I was seventeen or eighteen. I think it might have been the case that you were only allowed to be there for so many years. I really don't know why we were taken out. I think it was my mum's choice. We had no say. I just remember thinking it was time to move yet again.

#### **Foster care**

54. After St Ninian's, [REDACTED] and I lived with foster parents and visited my mum at weekends. They were like foster parents, but I don't think we were formally fostered. There were another couple of children in the house.

55. Life with the foster family was fine. They looked after me. If I ever met them and recognised them, I would thank them. I don't remember their names. I remember exactly where the house was. It was in [REDACTED]. It was within walking distance of my mum's house.

56. There was also a point in time when a woman called Mrs [REDACTED] wanted to adopt [REDACTED], but she didn't want me. That was something else I had to deal with. It didn't go ahead anyway. [REDACTED] stayed with me. I think my mum said that we weren't to be separated.

#### *Abuse by PE teacher at school*

57. I went to the local secondary school which was called St Columba's. My best subject was PE. I had enjoyed playing rugby at St Ninian's, but St Columba's was not a rugby-playing school. I was good at running.

58. One day I was in the changing room with a PE teacher called [REDACTED] MJS. Only he and I were there. I don't remember his second name. I had a pair of gold and green running shorts on. He put his hand up my shorts and grabbed my bum. I didn't go back to school after that. Nobody from social services said that I had to go

back to school. That's not how it worked back then. That was basically the end of my secondary education, although I did go back sometimes for free school dinners.

59. I didn't report it to anyone. At the time, because of my experiences and upbringing, I didn't think it was a big thing. I believe he was later prosecuted for paedophilia.

#### **Contact with social services during time in care**

60. My mother had a social worker called Mr Stansfield. I think he was the family social worker. I saw him over a period of about three to four years. He's dead now. He used to take [REDACTED], my mum and me out for fish suppers. I think that was around the time we were in and out of Nazareth House.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

62. I think my mum was in a relationship with Mr Stansfield. I saw them together one time in my mother's house. He was still around after we left St Ninian's. He used to come up to my mother's house now and again with fish and chips for her.

63. The only time I remember seeing any social workers in Cardross was at the end when the guy killed himself. I remember social workers and the police came. I don't know who the social workers were. I don't remember anybody else coming to see me who I could've spoken to about my experiences.

64. A social worker called James Dean was the major social worker in my life. He was brilliant. He kept me on the straight and narrow. I might be dead were it not for him. He is now one of the top men in East Dunbartonshire Council. I'm not really certain when he became involved. My first thought is that he was involved from when I was aged between fourteen to eighteen, but I married my first wife when I was twenty-three and he was still involved then. I last spoke to him about

twelve years ago, but he had to pass me on to someone else. My brother keeps in touch with him. I'm one hundred per cent certain I spoke to him about what happened to me in Cardross. I never told anybody the full detail of what had happened [REDACTED] I lived with that myself for so long.

65. I also remember going to hundreds of children's panels. It was like court. I think that's when James Dean came in. I went to panels years before I was moved to Cardross. I didn't go to a panel before being moved from Mugdock to Cardross. I was just moved straight into that place.

### **Life after the institutions**

66. I went back to live with my mother full-time once I turned sixteen. [REDACTED] came back too. My mother couldn't control us. We both ran about the streets at all hours, like nutcases, doing whatever we wanted.

67. [REDACTED] and I had a bad reputation for fighting. We teamed up together until we were about twenty-five. We weren't liberty-takers but if somebody started anything, we would go ahead with them. You'd get bullied otherwise.

68. I've been married twice. My first wife left me with our three kids. They're all in their twenties now. I told my wives about what happened to me in the homes before I got married.

69. I've lived in America and Australia. The last time I was in Australia, I was basically working as a slave in a boat-sanding team. I was living in a tin shed with no running water and just a generator for power. We worked at night as it was too hot during the day. [REDACTED]

70. I came back to Scotland after that and lived in a homeless unit. That's one of the worst environments you can get. It was horrific.

### Impact of experiences

71. Being taken out of Mugdock Bank and put into Cardross changed my whole life big-style. For most of my life, I've been a tough guy who batters people. If a guy hit me, I would hit him back as hard, fast and as much as I could. I was never scared. I'm not proud of it. It's a result of my upbringing. I associate it one hundred per cent with Cardross. They brutalised us and made us fight each other to settle issues – we were indoctrinated. No wonder I ended up good at fighting. I'm not like that now. I haven't been like that since I was in the homeless unit. I battered two guys who attacked me in there.
72. Everybody thinks I'm a nutcase. I know I'm not right, but I don't know what's wrong with me. I have mental health issues. I know that, but I don't know what is actually wrong with me. Nobody has diagnosed me. One says I'm bi-polar; the other says I've got a split personality and the majority just say I'm nuts.
73. I've suffered lots of injuries playing rugby. I've broken my leg, arm, collar bone and jaw. I think that game is a form of self-harm. I actually enjoyed hurting people with the ball, and hurting myself doing it.
74. Secondary Institutions - to be published later You can blame other people but that doesn't help. When my wife left me with my children, my whole point was to protect them from paedophiles. That was my whole life. I'm the same with my grandson and I make sure my daughter knows where he can and cannot go. I'm overprotective and always will be. I have every right to be like that. They say that most abusers are friends, family members or someone in close proximity.
75. My relationship with my son has been affected. He found out that his dad was interfered with and he hasn't taken it too well. I told him bits and pieces about it. He's been very distant since then. Before that, he saw me as a big strong rugby player who stood up for him and battered people.

## Treatment and support

76. I've seen several psychiatrists and psychologists, but I've never had any treatment that's helped. I ended up in a relationship with one of the psychologists. I was homeless at the time and she took me home and I stayed with her for three months. She was very controlling. She treated me like a slave. I get on well with females, but they can control me easily. The majority of my friends are female. I don't get on very well with males.
77. The last psychiatrist I saw was a woman called Dr [REDACTED]. I was referred to her about two years ago. My GP, Dr [REDACTED], referred me because I was hearing voices and having flashbacks. I had previously coped with that myself. I went to her for help and she twisted what I said and got me into trouble with the police. She asked me hypothetical questions and then contacted the police and reported me. She deliberately set me up. Because of what she said to the police, they believed that I had knives and swords and was going to stab a policeman. I was charged but it was later thrown out of court.
78. A psychiatrist from Stobhill Hospital sent me a letter in connection with my treatment which said something along the lines of "If you have been abused or been an abuser". It was put through my door at quarter past eight at night. The postman had obviously delivered it to the wrong house and someone opened it before passing it on to me. That was about a year ago. I know it was the woman who lives next door to me, but I can't prove it. I reported it to the police. I've been hassled by neighbours ever since. An old lady stopped me in the local shop and asked me if I was a paedophile. I've also had the word 'beast' sprayed on my window. I reported that to the police as well. I was so glad to see the mail from the Inquiry being delivered to me by recorded delivery. Really sensitive information should never be sent by ordinary post.
79. I don't ever want to speak to another psychiatrist. I'm done with them.

I've ended up in serious trouble every time I've tried to get help. That has made me not want to speak to anybody. I had serious doubts about speaking to the Inquiry because of what happened when I spoke to the psychiatrist and the NSPCC. I only came forward because I felt confident after speaking to people in the Inquiry witness support team that the same thing wouldn't happen again.

80. My GP is good. He reckons I've got a split personality. Dr [REDACTED] said I was schizophrenic because I [REDACTED]. I don't think she's right because I felt the same way and had flashbacks before [REDACTED]. I'm on a drug called Risperidone. It's a mind-altering drug. It was prescribed by Dr [REDACTED]. I get the repeat prescriptions from my GP practice. At one point I was on 6 mg and I couldn't function, but it's now been reduced to 4 mg.

### **Current life**

81. I've been in my current house for four years but I'm hoping to get a move because of the problems I've had with my neighbours.

82. I used to work as a computer programmer. I studied for an HND in computing at Clydebank College. I haven't worked in that field since I came back to Scotland. I've only worked casually. I'm not fit enough to work now. I can hardly walk at times. I don't touch computers now. If I were to have a laptop and someone got a hold of it and downloaded something suspect, that wouldn't look good for me and I wouldn't be able to prove it wasn't me.

83. I used to run a marathon a week and play rugby. I'm paying the price now for the way I played rugby. I use a stick to walk. My leg locks and I fall over. I've been told that they won't operate until I'm sixty. Not being able to run about freely like I used to affects my mental health as well.

84. I spend a lot of time on my own and rarely leave the house. I enjoy my own company. I don't have much time for other humans. I don't trust many people in life and I don't associate with many.

85. I see my one of my daughters and grandson, who is eight. My daughter brings my grandson to my house so I can spend time with him. I don't speak to my other daughter or my son now. Both of my daughters know that I've been abused, but they don't know the full detail.
86. My mum is dead now. I cared for her in the last ten years of her life and flew round the world with her. I'm glad I got to do that. I'm not close to [REDACTED] now. We were close up until my mum passed away.
87. Suicide is a thing I deal with every day. There are plusses that stop me, my grandson being the main one. My daughters and son are now old enough to look after themselves. When you've been so healthy and start to deteriorate over time, you question your quality of life and whether it's worth it. I don't know how I've managed to survive this long, I really don't.

### **Reporting the abuse**

88. I reported the abuse to the police at Kirkintilloch police station about two years ago. I told them what had happened to me at [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to [REDACTED] Cardross. As far as I'm aware, nobody has been charged and the investigation is ongoing. I might have been given a crime reference number, but I don't have it now. I haven't received any updates on the progress of the investigation. I don't think they're taking it seriously. I don't think they've spoken to my brother about it. He would have been on the phone to me if they had.
89. The police contacted the NSPCC and told them to get in touch with me. They came to my house to interview me. My whole experience with the NSPCC was shocking. I was absolutely livid when they left. They basically attacked me and accused me of being a paedophile. That's another thing I've had to try to get my head round. They twisted things in the same way the psychiatrist did.



90. For some reason, I can't just explain one part when I talk about what happened to me. I need to explain the whole lot. I remember seeing a girl in a tent in [Secondary In] being touched by a few boys. I went into the tent because I was a child and was inquisitive, but I didn't touch her. The NSPCC asked me if I had touched her and when I told them that I hadn't, they asked me if I was sure about that. I was trying to tell them everything that had happened to me and they were questioning me and telling me that a large number of people who've been abused become abusers. That was hard. I know that that is the case, but there are a lot of people who don't. The NSPCC did eventually acknowledge that at the end of the interview. You'd think they'd have a proper format for questioning people about this kind of thing so that it's done right.

91. The woman who interviewed me also asked me why it was so important for me to find out what age I was when I lost my virginity. [Secondary Institutions - to be published later]

[Secondary Institutions - to be published later]

[Seconda] I answered her question by saying that I was sure she knew what age she was when she lost her virginity. I know that was rude but she shouldn't have asked me that. The steam was coming out of her ears and she jumped to her feet and started talking through her walkie talkie. I think the NSPCC people need to be retrained. They also said to me that I was put into homes because my mother neglected me. There was I trying to tell them about my experiences in the homes and they were saying things like that. That's the worst thing you can say to someone.

92. I remember people used to say to me that I was being very brave reporting what had happened to me. I never understood why they said that. As far as I was concerned, all I was doing was telling the truth. I understand now why they said it. I haven't been right since I was interviewed by the NSPCC. If other people were thinking about reporting it, I would tell them not to do it and just live with it. What happened has made me worse. I know the NSPCC have a job to do but the way they went about it was wrong. After the interview, they handed me a booklet and that was the last I heard from them. They didn't even come back and say we've done our investigation and we know you're not a paedophile. I feel that this

is still hanging over me. Also, handing someone a booklet is no use. You can't get a manual for coping with life after abuse. It's an individual thing.

93. I didn't want to report the abuse when my kids were younger as I was scared to, especially with my mental health issues. I waited until I was fifty and my kids were older. Imagine if I had reported it when my kids were younger and the NSPCC had reacted the way they did.

94. I've had involvement with the police in relation to other matters. I have been brutalised by the police in the past and they've stitched me up. The officers who dealt with the cases against me are also based at Kirkintilloch police station.

95. I've had other problems with the police on other occasions when they've either not believed me or not taken any action when I've reported crimes against me.

96. I don't know if I'll go back to the police about the abuse. I'll need to wait and see how I feel about things. I went to them in the hope that I could get the truth out and make sure the people who did things to me when I was young paid for what they did. That's why I spoke to the NSPCC as well.

### **Records**

97. I've only ever wanted to see certain parts of my records as I'm too scared to read everything. I filled out forms to get the records from East Dunbartonshire Council but I didn't do it properly. I remember a signature of some sort was needed, maybe a doctor's, and I ended up not seeing the process through. That was well before the NSPCC interviewed me. They had my records when they came to see me. They had read them beforehand.

98. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

LCH  


Signed.....

Dated..... 19 / FEB 2017 .....

